



# Family Law

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YOUR EX DOES!

## A

Remember when you saw the statue of the three monkeys? One monkey symbolized 'see no evil' the other monkey symbolized 'hear no evil' and the final monkey symbolized 'say no evil'. In a divorce, good parenting is like that.

When you are separating from your spouse, judges will tell you that the best interests of your children look like keeping them outside of the adult conflict as much as possible. Children may observe stacks of paper, or whispered conversations. When they ask what you are doing, keep your explanation short, sweet and neutral – "just some paperwork". You are being honest, while shielding your child from the conflict.

This is important, as a teenager or preteen is likely to push for more. Your teens do not need to know the dirty details – they do need to be reassured. Your teenager is entitled to know that you will always love them, the other parent will always love them, and there is a place for them in both homes.

The hardest thing is to keep your anger to yourself. This is your divorce, not hers and while it is hard, ensure that you speak no ill – or tolerate friends and family of speaking ill – of your spouse. Vent you can, but not to your child or in their hearing. Remember that your children love both of you – you are their parents.

Your friends at Shank Law.



Roxanne C. Shank  
LAWYER

## Q

My spouse and I are separating. How do I talk to my daughter about the divorce?



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